

REMARKS

Claims 1-144 were pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 11, 48, 91, 97, 112, 127, and 137 have been amended and new claims 145 and 146 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-146 are currently pending.

Support for new claim 145 and the amendments to claims 48, 91, 97, 112, 127, and 137 may be found, for example, in paragraphs 16, 17, 49, 80, and 87 of the specification. Support for new claim 146 may be found, for example, in paragraph 58 of the specification. The amendment to claim 11 was made to correct a typographical error in the word “adapted.” Accordingly, no new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments.

Applicant has not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter to the public and moreover has not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

The Office has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-47, drawn to a support structure comprising at least two branched segments, each segment comprising a plurality of struts connected to define substantially parallel alternate consecutive struts, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+.
- II. Claims 48-90, drawn to a support structure comprising at least three branched segments, each segment comprising a primary strut and a plurality of secondary struts, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+.

- III. Claims 91-96, drawn to a support structure comprising an outer ring, a plurality of primary struts, and a plurality of cantilevered struts, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+, 629.
- IV. Claims 97-111, drawn to a support structure comprising an outer ring and a plurality of struts movably connected at the outer ring, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+.
- V. Claims 112-126, drawn to a support structure comprising an outer ring and a plurality of struts, with at least one strut movably connected to an outer containment, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+.
- VI. Claims 127-132, drawn to a support structure comprising a plurality of struts, each strut comprising a first portion and a second portion connected with relative movement, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+.
- VII. Claim 133, drawn to a support structure comprising a plurality of struts that provide a substantially uniform contact stress with respect to a portion of a catalyst, classified in class 422, subclasses 211, 311; class 248, subclass 560+.
- VIII. Claims 134-136, drawn to a support structure comprising a plurality of struts that expand or contract as temperature changes, classified in class 422, subclasses 221, 311; class 248, subclass 560+.
- IX. Claims 137-144, drawn to a support structure comprising a plurality of struts forming at least two branched segments, including a first strut and at least a second strut, classified in class 422, subclass 311; class 248, subclass 560+.

Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-47) without traverse.

Applicant expressly reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application directed on the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

Applicant hereby requests examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 220772008900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By *Jill A. Jacobson*
Jill A. Jacobson
Registration No.: 40,030

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
755 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304
(650) 813-5876